

Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey National Report Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among 13 and 15 Year Olds in Scotland 2006

This survey conducted for the Scottish Executive is designed to monitor smoking, drinking and drug use among secondary pupils aged 13 and 15. Information was obtained from 23,180 pupils throughout Scotland in the autumn term of 2006. Below are the volatile substance abuse (VSA) statistics from the report:

- Solvents (gas, glue, etc.) were offered to 12% of 15 year olds and 7% of 13 year olds.
- Among 15 year olds there was a decline between 2002 and 2006 in the proportion of pupils being offered solvents (14% in 2002, 13% in 2004 and 12% in 2006.)
- 1% of 13 year olds had reported using solvents within the last month.
- 2% of 15 year olds had reported using solvents within the last month.
- 2% of 13 year olds had reported using solvents within the last year.
- 3% of 15 year olds had reported using solvents within the last year.
- 3% of 13 year olds had reported ever using solvents. (This was second to cannabis at 6% and cocaine was third at 2%.)
- 5% of 15 year olds had reported ever using solvents. (This was joint third with cocaine and ecstasy, whilst cannabis was first at 25% and poppers second at 8%.)
- 76% of 15 year old pupils who had used drugs within the last month agreed that inhaling or sniffing solvents could cause brain damage. 5% said it was false and 19% didn't know.
- 77% of 15 year old pupils who had used drugs, but not in the last month, agreed that inhaling or sniffing solvents could cause brain damage. 2% said it was false and 21% didn't know.
- 74% of 15 year old pupils who had never used drugs agreed that inhaling or sniffing solvents could cause brain damage. 2% said it was false and 24% didn't know.
- 5% of 13 year olds and 6% of 15 year olds thought it was 'ok' to try sniffing to see what it was like.

NB - As from the 2002 survey, 'Gas, glue or other solvents' was placed second on the drug list because of some evidence from earlier surveys that some pupils may not respond to items lower down the list and it was considered important not to lose this information.